

U.S. and Soviets extend INF talks

GENEVA (R) — The chief U.S. and Soviet arms negotiators extended talks on Monday aimed at clinching the first treaty to cut their nuclear missile arsenals in time for a superpower summit in Washington next month. Chief U.S. negotiator Max Kampelman and Soviet counterpart Yuli Vorontsov worked throughout the day and into the evening trying to ensure an accord on scrapping all intermediate-range nuclear (INF) missiles was ready for the Dec. 7-10 summit. Both Mr. Kampelman and Mr. Vorontsov told reporters in the morning that they were confident the elusive treaty, under negotiation since March 1985, would be concluded in time. Asked whether it would be ready for President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to sign, Mr. Vorontsov said: "By all means. We have no doubt about it." Mr. Kampelman said he was certain outstanding problems, notably how to ensure against cheating, could be resolved and a treaty would be signed in December. But after a working lunch, they abandoned plans to move on to other arms control issues and pressed on with efforts to clear the remaining obstacles blocking an INF accord.

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King sends good wishes to Syria and Morocco

JORDAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a able of good wishes to Syrian resident Hafez Al Assad congratulating him on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1970 corrective movement in Syria. The King wished President Assad continuing good health and happiness and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity. Also on Monday the King sent a able of good wishes to King Hassan II of Morocco congratulating him on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. The King wished the Moroccan monarch continuing good health and happiness and the Moroccan people further progress and prosperity under his leadership.

Rifai meets ambassadors

JORDAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai conferred separately in his office in Amman on Monday with Egyptian Ambassador Ihab Wahbeh and Tunisian Ambassador Said Ibh Iustapha. Discussions covered Jordan's relations with Egypt and Tunisia, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Mr. Rifai later met with Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Arregord. Petra gave no other details.

Police defuse two bombs in east Beirut

ERITRE (AP) — Police defused two bombs packed with nails set to explode separately near a petrol station and a vegetable shop in east Beirut on Monday. Police said the bombs, the first containing 15 kilogrammes of TNT and the second four kilogrammes, were linked to time devices and failed to explode in the crowded residential areas of Salomeh and El Khaneh. A dozen people were killed and 104 wounded in two separate bomb blasts at Beirut's airport and the American University Hospital (AUH) in east Beirut (See story on page 2).

Powell said involved in Iranagate

ASHINGTON (AP) — Army Lieutenant-General Colin L. Powell, President Ronald Reagan's choice to be the next national security adviser, was involved in the secret sales of arms to Iran, a published report said today. The Washington Post, citing Iran-contra committee sources it did not identify, said Gen. Powell acted as a coordinator for the Pentagon in the October 1985 shipment of Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Iran. The newspaper said the sources said Gen. Powell passed information several times to principal participants and acted as a contact point for the White House. However, the newspaper said congressional investigators failed to have Gen. Powell testify in public.

Iran quits Tehiya

TEL AVIV (AP) — Rafael Sharansky, Israel's chief of staff during the Lebanon invasion, quit the right-wing Tehiya Party Monday to become an independent parliament member.

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Iranians hammer neutral shipping in southern Gulf

U.S.-owned/managed tankers carrying Saudi oil among 4 vessels hit in 10 hours

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iran's armed speedboats attacked a U.S.-owned supertanker and three other neutral vessels in the southern Gulf on Monday, in expected retaliation for an Iraqi aerial blitz of Iranian oil shipping lanes, shipping officials said.

The series of attacks, coming over a 10-hour period and three of them in daylight, were the most in a single day since last Sept. 2 when the seaborne Revolutionary Guards struck five vessels.

Shipping industry executives in the Gulf had forecast the attacks as reprisal for Iraq's week-long wave of air raids on shuttle tankers along the Iranian coast. Two such raids late Sunday brought the total for the week to 15, of which four were confirmed by independent sources.

Iran's official Islamic News Agency (IRNA) quoted a war communiqué as saying anti-aircraft gunners shot down three

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians, Lebanese militiamen battle in S. Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Heavy machinegun battles erupted on Monday between Lebanese militiamen and Palestinians defending Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp near this southern town, police said.

It was the second flare-up in two days pitting the nascent Popular Liberation Army (PLA), which controls Sidon, against fighters of Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council.

The fighting, at the western entrance to Ain Al Hilweh, wounded a policeman who was guarding a nearby police station, police said.

Residents said machinegun fire echoed across Sidon, 42 kilometres south of Beirut, forcing closure of the road from the port town to the refugee settlement, the biggest in Lebanon.

Two Abu Nidal guerrillas were killed in rocket and machinegun exchanges on Sunday over the presence of armed Palestinians near a local vegetable market.

The PLA, backed by Syria, has Palestinian guerrillas from entering Sidon.

Palestinian fighters have been fighting Amal militiamen over the past year for control of strategic hilltops overlooking Ain Al Hilweh and the nearby Mich Mieh camp.

The PLA has acted as a mediator between the two sides and deployed fighters in the area as a buffer force between them.

In hills east of the city, Palestinians and Amal also fought all night with machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades. An Amal militiaman was killed and three other combatants, one Amal fighter and two Palestinians, were wounded.

The PLO's renewed clashes with Amal militia strained a newly proclaimed agreement between the two sides aimed at ending nearly three years of war for control of refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon.

The accord was concluded Nov. 5 in Algiers between Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Amal chieftain Nabih Berri.

Israel claims seizure of Fateh boat in Mediterranean

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel claimed on Monday that its navy had intercepted a boat belonging to the Fateh Palestinian organisation in the Mediterranean on Saturday and all on board were arrested and taken to Israel.

The Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, said earlier this month he doubted any hostile group could carry out an operation in waters patrolled by the Israeli navy, which says it has prevented any successful sea-borne raids for 10 years.

In another development, Israeli police said Sunday a Palestinian suspected of plotting guerrilla attacks on Israeli targets in Greece and Israel was arrested by police when he arrived in Tel Aviv by plane from Italy.

Police said Jihad Jawayad, 31, left the town of Shefaram seven years ago, joined the PLO, and took part in guerrilla activities in several Mediterranean countries.

S. Arabia, Bahrain resume diplomatic relations with Egypt

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia on Monday became the seventh Arab League member state to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt after last week's Arab summit in Amman.

Bahrain took a similar step earlier in the day.

Saudi Information Minister Ali Shaer said King Fahd ordered that "relations with sister Egypt be resumed as of today, in support of Arab solidarity."

Mr. Shaer's statement, distributed by the Saudi Press Agency and broadcast by the state-run radio and television, stressed that the move was motivated by the "unity of aspirations and views in the face of the machinations of evil and aggression menacing the very existence of the Arab World."

In Manama, a Foreign Ministry statement carried by the Gulf News Agency said the decision to re-establish ties with Egypt was in line with Bahrain's quest for pan-Arab solidarity.

In taking the decision, the statement said, Bahrain was deeply convinced that the Arab World "now more than ever before requires collective action in a spirit of brotherly cooperation to repulse the dangers that beset it and labour for its dignity."

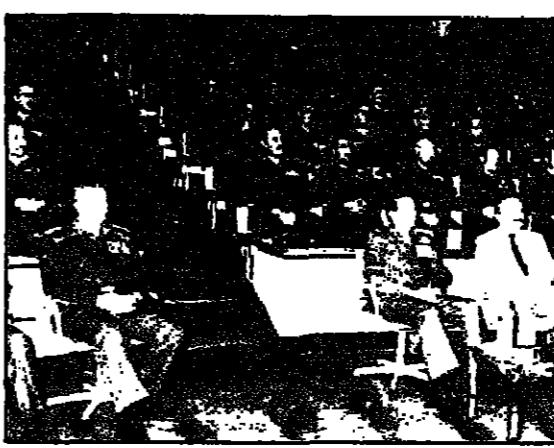
The statement paid tribute to Egypt and its President Hosni Mubarak for the "nationalist stance in support of the Arab World's security."

The moves by Saudi Arabia and Bahrain was in line with a decision passed by the Arab summit in Amman to let each Arab country decide on its own the future of its ties with Egypt.

The United Arab Emirates last week declared it was resuming full diplomatic ties with Egypt. Iraq, Morocco, Kuwait, and North Yemen also revived relations with Egypt since last Wednesday.

What is permissible for Jordanian banks to maintain in funds abroad, Dr. Shukri said, are only foreign currencies equivalent to 15 per cent of the value of each letter of credit opened by a Jordanian importer in favour of a foreign supplier.

He ruled out the possibility that other forms of placements



Centre of the King Hussein Medical Centre (Petra photo)

King lauds security personnel for their role in success of summit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, met at the Fara Centre at the King Hussein Medical Centre on Monday with officers from the Armed Forces and the Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments who took part in preparations and arrangements for the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last week.

His Majesty thanked all those present at the meeting for the efforts they made to make the summit a success and to ensure the suitable atmosphere for its convening in Amman.

"I am very pleased to be with you to extend all thanks and gratitude to you and through you to all the personnel of our Armed Forces, and the Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments who exerted great efforts before and during the summit," the King told the officers.

The King also voiced his thanks to every Jordanian who contributed to ensuring the suitable atmosphere for the summit.

CBJ says no Jordanian bank could have lost on Wall Street

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has denied reports and rumours that Jordanian banks had incurred losses in the latest crash on Wall Street and other financial centres.

Dr. Maher Shukri, deputy governor of the CBJ, told the Jordan Times on Sunday that "no losses could have occurred because Jordanian banks are not allowed to hold any short-term or long-term investments in foreign markets."

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Dr. Maher Shukri might have taken place "because the CBJ continuously conducts thorough audit on the financial records of the commercial banks and financial companies."

(Continued on page 3)

W. Bank university officials denounce Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — West Bank university administrators demanded Monday that Israel reopen a Vatican-funded Arab school in occupied Bethlehem and reevaluate its use of sniper rifles to quell student protests.

"Repeated and extended university closures do nothing to redress the grievances of young Palestinians," said Bethlehem University Deputy Dean Brother Anton de Rooper. "They exacerbate the situation they pretend to cure. We want to go back to work."

But Israeli military officials claimed the university was closed for three months only after two prior warnings and several violent demonstrations, and said they doubted the order would be reversed.

"We deplore the acts of killing and aggression against university students which culminated in the tragic loss of Ishak Abu Srur as we deplore the military order to close the university," student

council president Ali Dakhilah told a news conference called to protest at the incident.

Anton Sansour, executive vice president of the 1,600-student university, said Israeli students were allowed to express themselves but Palestinians could not.

"When there are demonstrations of religious and secular Jews, the army uses methods to put them down that don't cause injury and no demonstrators are killed," said Mr. Sansour, who is also president of the council for higher education in the occupied territories.

Mr. Dakhilah said a student council member and a second-year student at the university had been arrested on "security" charges since the fatal shooting of 22-year-old Abu Srur.

"The army is exacting death from our students as the cost of their expressions of frustration," Brother De Rooper said. "And usually the violence concerns only a few, but the retribution falls upon the many."

Brother De Rooper, speaking at a news conference called by the council for higher education, said the circumstances of the shooting were in doubt. University officials have accused soldiers of "opening fire in a sustained, rapid-fire fashion" and also have denied petrol bombs were because of high risks.

He added that according to Article 31 of the CBJ law, investments outside the Kingdom are forbidden but the monetary authorities do not enforce the regulation. As such, free movement of currencies do take place without controls "as everyone knows," Dr. Shukri noted. He estimated the amount that Jordanian individuals hold in foreign

and financial companies."

(Continued on page 3)

Mitterrand denies responsibility in Iran arms row

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand denied on Monday any responsibility in an illicit sale of French munitions to Iran between 1983 and 1986 under the previous Socialist public.

"It was I who set up the arms embargo to Iran," said Mr. Mitterrand, breaking a two-week silence on a scandal dubbed France's Iranagate.

"The position of France has been traversed," the 71-year-old socialist leader said in an interview with the RTL radio network.

Mr. Mitterrand has been accused of failing to stop a three-year traffic in artillery shells to Iran despite being alerted in 1984.

A secret report into the arms

sales, leaked two weeks ago, said the Luchaire arms company sold about half a million artillery shells to Iran between 1983 and 1986 under the previous Socialist president.

Reports of the illicit sales were not confirmed six months later, Mr. Mitterrand said, and the authorities who monitor arms sales were never told of any fraud.

"If the monitoring authorities do not tell me anything, then I am allowed to think that there is no wrongdoing."

Mr. Mitterrand denied that the Socialist Party had received any money from commissions on the sales, as alleged by the Barbe report.

"I am ready to put my hand in the fire on that," said the president.

The scandal is the latest in a series of murky affairs to emerge

in the run-up to next year's presidential elections.

The president refused to say whether he would run for a second, seven-year term, saying he had yet to decide.

Former Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said Friday that Mr. Mitterrand had personally rejected efforts by Iran to buy French weaponry for use in the Gulf war against Iraq.

"When it was suggested that we deliver a large quantity of arms to Iran, the president refused and issued a written prohibition order," Mr. Cheysson said.

"If any arms were delivered, then it must have been done with faked documents without the knowledge of the president or myself."

Burning Iranian platform sparks pollution fears

BAHRAIN (R) — An Iranian oil platform ablaze by a U.S. attack last month might explode and send millions of barrels of oil flooding into the already polluted waters of the Gulf, oil sources in the region said on Monday.

"They said fire was still raging on the platform at Iran's Rostam Oilfield 120 miles east of Bahrain in the central Gulf, probably because the Iranians were trying to burn off gushing oil."

"If the fire goes out, the oil will flow into the sea and will constitute a substantial pollution hazard," one oil source said. "The Iranians are probably reigting it to prevent pollution."

The U.S. Defence Department said it demolished one platform at Rostam and partially destroyed another on Oct. 19 because they were being used as bases for Iranian gunboat raids on merchant ships. Iran denied the charge.

Environmental experts say oil pollution in the Gulf, to the rare endangered sea mammals known as dugong, is 47 times higher than average.

Some oil sources said there was a risk that high temperatures at the burning platform could set off a major explosion and send reserves from the whole field, estimated at 130 million barrels, gushing into the Gulf.

"The danger is that when the temperature reaches a critical

point, the whole pipe could melt, triggering an explosion at the well-head. The situation would then be very difficult to control," one source said.

The sources said it was difficult to assess the possibility of an explosion without knowing which part of the field, which comprises several wells and many pipelines, was damaged.

But they said the likelihood of such an accident was greater when oil was mixed with gas, as it is at Rostam.

Accurate figures on pollution in the Gulf are hard to obtain since few co-ordinated studies have been made since the Iran-Iraq war began more than seven years ago.

Environmental experts say the waterway, conduit for one-sixth of the non-Communist world's oil, is particularly vulnerable because it is shallow and virtually landlocked.

Discharges of oil from punctured tankers, industrial centres, offshore drilling sites and underwater pipelines this year have aggravated the problem.

"The oil from Rostam could either drift north and east to

Iran's coast or south and west to the shores of Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, depending on the direction of wind and currents," the oil sources said.

The Rostam Oilfield produced an estimated 7,520 barrels per day (BPD) but has been out of operation since an Iraqi air raid in November 1986.

The oil sources said the Iraqi raid also halted production at the Rakhs Field 15 miles to the south because one gathering pipeline had taken the output of both to Iran's Lavan Island terminal.

Shipping sources said Iraqi warplanes attacked Rakhs Field on Aug. 29 but details on damage were not available.

One oil source said it would be to Iran's advantage to try to reactivate Rakhs by building a diversion pipeline to the larger Sasan Field about 40 miles away.

"It would be Iran's quickest and cheapest option and I expect it will be begun soon," he said.

"Depending on the technology available, it could be finished in a few weeks."

The sources estimated that Iran produced around two million BPD in October, just below its quota of 2.3 million BPD assigned by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

French explosives reportedly shipped to Iran via Sweden

PARIS (AP) — A French state-controlled arms company shipped large quantities of explosives via Sweden to Iran from 1982 to 1985, the newspaper Le Matin reported Monday.

The newspaper published what it said were copies of documents proving that thousands of tons of explosive powder were sent via the Sweden-based firm Scandinavian commodity to Iran from the National Powders and Explosives Co., which is owned 99.85 per cent by the French government.

France is one of the chief suppliers of Iraq, which has been at war with Iran since 1980. Paris has had an arms embargo in place against Tehran, although there have been other reports of French arms shipments diverted to the Islamic Republic.

"And we'll issue a summary of the consultation's results that will be distributed to all the potential future presidents of the United States. I think this would be of benefit to them, whether or not they agree with all the facets of it," he said.

Mr. Carter said he hoped the

Carter hopes Atlanta meeting to be prelude to Mideast peace conference

ATLANTA (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was expected to open a meeting Monday of representatives of world powers and Middle East combatants in what he hopes will be a major step toward a full-scale peace conference.

"The Middle East Consultation: A Look at the Future" is not the peace conference he wants, but participants in the three-day meeting are "people who can speak accurately," Mr. Carter said.

The meeting at the Carter Presidential Center will include representatives of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Israel, the Soviet Union, China, France, Britain, the Palestinians, the United Nations and the U.S. State Department.

The conference "will be for everyone to learn," Mr. Carter said in an interview with the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution, in Sunday's editions.

"And we'll issue a summary of the consultation's results that will be distributed to all the potential future presidents of the United States. I think this would be of benefit to them, whether or not they agree with all the facets of it," he said.

Mr. Carter said he hoped the

sessions would form groundwork for an international conference despite a cool reception to the idea from the White House.

Mr. Carter said he would like to see an international conference where the most powerful representatives of the parties in Middle East conflicts would voice their opinions publicly, then privately negotiate their bitter problems concerning land rights and war.

"You have a situation now

where the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Syria and Jordan and Egypt and a major portion of the leaders in Israel are all making the same effort," Mr. Carter said last week.

"This is unprecedented," he said. "And my guess is that with proper leadership, primarily from Washington, that the other portion of the Israeli leadership and the Palestinian community would join the effort."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposes such a conference, arguing that Israel would be pressured to give up land and security zones among other properties.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the left-leaning Labour Party, who rules with

Shamir in a coalition govern-

ment, has advocated an international peace conference.

The proposed forum would include the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Britain and China — as well as Israel, Jordan, Palestinian representatives and possibly other Arab states.

Mr. Carter, who presided over the Camp David accords and was mediator of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, says the attention that an international conference attracts would be beneficial.

"The parties would have a forum in which they could present their best case to an intensely interested worldwide audience, which they have never had before," he said.

Mr. Carter was expected to open the conference with a speech on Monday night. Tuesday morning's session will focus on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Tuesday's afternoon session will deal with the Gulf situation.

The conference will close Wednesday with an afternoon discussion on "future options — methods and substance," followed by a public address by Mr. Carter summing up the confer-

ence.

Asked if this meant Iran's Chinese-made Silkworms, deployed on Iraq's occupied Fao peninsula 100 kilometres away, were no longer a threat, Mr. Bader said: "I think we have taken care of that."

Western diplomats say Kuwait has re-deployed barges with radar reflectors in the Gulf north of its oil ports to deflect missiles. It has also redeployed U.S.-made Hawk anti-aircraft missiles on nearby Failaka Island, they say.

Mr. Bader called damage to the sea island terminal extensive but "not that serious."

The terminal, 10 miles offshore, handled about one-third of Kuwait's crude oil exports before the attack.

"Repairs are under way and it should not be long before it comes back into service," Mr. Bader said. He declined to predict when, and said much depended on weather conditions that had hampered work so far.

The missile slammed into a corner of the central loading platform but damage mainly involved pipes, electrical cables and a small tank, Mr. Bader said.

A mooring two miles from sea island would be operational within a few days to accommodate very large crude carriers (VLCCs) that have been unable to fully load since the attack, Mr. Bader said.

He said there had been no reduction in Kuwait's crude oil exports of around 450,000 barrels per day (BPD).

Junblatt accuses Falangists of bombings

BEIRUT (AP) — Druse leader Walid Junblatt has accused Lebanon's Falangists of engineering this week's bombings of Beirut airport and the American University Hospital in which 11 people were killed and 11 wounded.

Mr. Junblatt said the Lebanese Forces, the Falangists' main militia in Lebanon's 12-year-old civil war, and the Lebanese Intelligence Service of the Lebanese army masterminded the two bombings in Syrian-policed Mount west Beirut.

There was no immediate response from the Lebanese Forces or the army command to the charge, which Mr. Junblatt made to reporters at his ancestral palace in Moukhtara, 3 kilometers south east of Beirut.

He spoke after a 45-minute closed-door meeting followed by a working lunch with Britain's Ambassador John Gray, who told reporters afterwards that the discussed "events in Lebanon the Middle East and the Gulf." Mr. Gray did not elaborate.

Asked who he thought was behind the new bombings in Beirut, Mr. Junblatt told reporters: "We know the mastermind of these bombings are the Lebanese Forces and the army intelligence. The day will come when we will settle scores with them."

He charged the Falangists went to discredit Syria's law-enforcement effort in west Beirut after the recent Arab summit conference in Amman by apparently renewed Syria's peacekeeping mandate in Lebanon.

"Our Syrian brothers show watch out for more such attacks after the summit's renewal of its mandate," Mr. Junblatt said.

The Syrians, Lebanon's major power brokers, maintain 25,000 troops in northern and eastern Lebanon under a 1976 mandate from the Arab League to end the Lebanese civil war.

They also deployed 7,500 troops in west Beirut last February in a bid to curb the chaotic reign of feuding opposition militias.

No group has claimed responsibility for any of the bombings that climaxed this week with the port and the American University Hospital atrocities.

Police said seven people were killed and 37 wounded when a nail-packed bomb hidden in a box of chocolates carried by a woman exploded at the crowded Al-Jubayr on Saturday.

The U.S. State Department condemned the hospital bombing as "particularly despicable and utterly heartless act of bringing violence into a place of healing."

Former captain of Stark defends crew

WASHINGTON (AP) — The former skipper of the USS Stark says his crew did not defend the frigate against an Iraqi air attack last May because four different radar and detection systems failed to indicate the ship was under attack.

Capt. Glenn R. Brindel, in his first extensive comment on the attack and the navy's resulting investigation, acknowledged "deficiencies in the watch on the night of May 17th."

"Their actions or inactions, however, contrary to what the investigation would have you believe, are not primary causes for Stark's failure to defend against the Exocet (missile) attack," he said. "Unfortunately, the ship's radars and electronics did not function as advertised..."

Capt. Brindel asserted that the frigate's equipment was ineffective against Exocet missiles

directly contradicts the official findings of a board of inquiry, released in a censored version on Oct. 15.

It also raises new questions about the ability of similar frigates — at least six ships of the same type are currently deployed in the Gulf — to defend themselves against such attacks.

Thirty-seven sailors died in the attack, which has been characterized by both Iraq and the United States as an accident.

The inquiry board recommended courts-martial for Capt. Brindel and his tactical action officer, but that recommendation was set aside after the two men accepted responsibility for the incident. Both were reprimanded.

Capt. Brindel will retire soon at the lower rank of commander.

The board of inquiry harshly criticized Capt. Brindel and some of his top officers for failing to

"for the express purpose of visiting" Jon Parris, 50.

"I am so happy, I'm delirious," Ms. Parris said in a telephone interview. She said she and her travelling companion, Cathy Lewis, 33, will spend Tuesday in New York meeting people at the Iranian mission before flying to

Frankfurt, West Germany, and on to Tehran.

Parris, employed by Cosmos Engineers, worked at the Asadabad Telecommunications Centre 320 kilometres south of Tehran at the time of his arrest, which came shortly after an Iraqi air raid on the facility.

Malak said UNRWA, which cares for some 300,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, plans to repair the only school in Bourj Al Barajneh but this would take time.

Critics say the U.S. escort plan, bitterly resented by Tehran, has

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King and Queen attend waterskiing contest marking King's birthday



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid watch a Monday waterskiing competition in Aqaba. The event marked the occasion of King Hussein's 52nd birthday.

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BEIRUT (AP) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Monday attended a waterskiing competition organised by the Aquamarine Hotel Club in cooperation with the Tourism Authority and the Royal Jordanian.

Accompanied by several members of the royal family, the King and Queen watched a performance by competitors from the S. Cypress Gardens team. The American water-skiers carried Jordanian flags and posters as a goodwill gesture to the King on the occasion of his 52nd birthday.

Following the skiing competition, there was a parade of glass boats decorated with portraits of the King and Jordanian flags.

A national folk troupe danced side one of the boats in a performance for the King and Queen.

Later, Their Majesties watched a traditional ballet performance by the S. group.

The waterskiing events began Saturday, the King's 52nd birthday, with an offshore race covering a distance of 40 kilometres.

Americans took the first and second places, followed by two Iraqians, who took third and fourth places.

Among those attending the day competition were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and Aqaba Region Authority Director Bassam Qaqish and other officials, in addition to invited spectators.

Cables continue to pour in

Meanwhile, King Hussein received more cables of good wishes on his 52nd birthday.

A cable from the Soviet Praesidium, expressing the Soviet people's congratulations was sent to King and the Jordanian people on this occasion. The message expressed hope that Soviet-Jordanian relations will be further strengthened in the future to serve the national interests of both countries and contribute to the cause of establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

King Hussein received a cable from the Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, wishing him happiness and for the Jordanian people, their progress and prosperity.

Another cable from the Kuwaiti Prime Minister, Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Yabes, expressed his good wishes to the King on his birthday.

His Majesty also received a

cable from

Iranians hammer shipping

(Continued from page 1)

Saddam's Al Thawra daily, of the ruling Baath Socialist Party, said "no-one will survive Iraq's firepower" if Iran attacked "another ill-fated offensive."

Iraqi forces have been on maximum alert since last Friday.

A Monday's retaliatory attacks, two Iranian speedboats struck a U.S.-owned supertanker

the first time in the 3½-year "tanker war" in the Gulf, shipping executives said.

The Esso Freeport, a 250,000-tonner owned by the U.S. Petroleum Company Exxon and flying the Bahamian flag, came under attack as it entered the port of Hormuz with a load of Arabian crude oil, bound for the United States.

Regional officials of the U.S. giant, asking not to be identified, said the ship was hit by four heat-propelled grenades which caused "superficial" damage and casualties.

The ship later headed for the United Arab Emirates port of Sharjah to assess damage, one port said.

Radio monitors reported hearing the ship's master calling for help from any warship.

It was not known if any Iranian vessels were in the immediate area.

J.S. warships escort only Iranian-flagged vessels in the Gulf, but may also lend "humanitarian assistance" to other ships needing it. However, U.S. officials say this does not include intervening to stop attacks.

Other victims of Monday's attacks included the 36,512-ton Greek-flag tanker Lucy, managed by Maritime Overseas Corp., of New York, and the 123-ton, Greek-flag Filikon L, owned by the Piraeus-based Hellenic Shipping Enterprises.

Shipping executives said a fourth, unidentified ship also re-

ported it was being attacked,

about 15 minutes after the Filikon L and in the same area. The ship described the damage as minor and said it was proceeding, the executives said.

The Piraeus company also owns the supertanker Fortuneship L, the apparent target of Friday's Iraqi raid that hit the tugboat Salvital, killing the Filipinos on board.

A Soviet warship, escorting a Soviet tanker in the area, changed course to go to the aid of the Filikon L, which suffered a severe fire, according to shipping executives who spoke on condition they not be named.

They did not identify the warship, one of about six that Moscow maintains in the Gulf and nearby waters.

The sources said an Iranian warship operating in the area had earlier queried the Soviet tanker as to its cargo and destination, but broke off the transmission after being told the ship was under escort.

The Filikon L was headed for Singapore, also carrying Saudi oil from the Gulf port of Ras Tanura, shipping sources said, when it was attacked off the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah at 1:30 p.m. (1030 GMT), about two hours after the Esso Freeport.

Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit in London said the Lucy had been hit earlier, about 3 a.m. (2300 GMT Sunday) by three fast patrol boats just inside the Gulf, and later anchored off Dubai. The ship, under charter to a Japanese company, suffered damage to its starboard engine room.

In yet another report, Lloyd's said the 584-ton Iranian tug Yousef was hit by an Iraqi aircraft missile on Thursday night, with a second one a near-miss. It did not indicate if there were casualties or provide other details.

That raised to four the number of Iraqi attacks in the past week that have been confirmed by other independent sources.

Baghdad reports only that its aircraft strike at "large naval targets," meaning tankers carrying Iranian oil, but does not identify them further.

CAEU confident of overcoming financial troubles

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Representatives of the Arab countries which are permanent members of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) opened their discussions here Monday amidst high hopes that the political solidarity achieved by 21 Arab leaders at the extraordinary Arab summit would reflect positively on joint Arab economic action.

The meeting is also expected to hammer out a resolution to save the financially-troubled CEAU, which has been unable to cover its current expenditures and to pay its staff's salaries for the past three months.

In an interview with the Jordan Times on Monday, CEAU Secretary-General Mahdi Obeidi did not disclose figures on the council's current deficit.

However, he sounded confident that the present situation would be contained due to the positive resolutions adopted by the extraordinary summit aimed at lifting all specialised Arab agencies and organisations affiliated with Arab League ministerial councils from their critical financial situations.

"I am extremely optimistic about bailing out the CEAU from its present situation, in view of the decisions adopted by the Amman summit on rescuing the financially-troubled organisations. There is a trend now that Arab countries will honour their financial commitments to these Arab agencies and councils," Mr. Obeidi said.

The CEAU secretary-general said the council's financial situation, in particular, would be tackled on Dec. 6, when the 48th meeting of the CEAU Ministerial Council opens in Amman. The meeting will be attended by the Arab ministers concerned.

The situation at the CEAU is very similar to the condition of other Arab League organisations and specialised Arab agencies working in the fields of agriculture, tourism, standardisation and administrative developments.

This grave situation surfaced during the past year when rifts and the lack of Arab coordination reached their peaks; it ended when the majority of Arab countries, for various reasons, stopped honouring their financial commitments to these organisations.

The situation of these Arab organisations and institutions was, according to well-informed sources, brought up at the summit by Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi and discussed by the Arab leaders who attended the meeting.

The Amman summit, according to these sources, took several resolutions to address this problem; one of which was to demand that Arab countries embark immediately on settling their shares in the 1987 budgets of all these

specialised agencies and organisations.

In order to ensure the implementation of this resolution, the sources said the Arab leaders agreed not to limit their decision to contribute their respective shares to these organisations with the work of an eight-member committee entrusted with evaluating the performance of all of these agencies.

The sources were referring to the committee grouping eight Arab ministers, which was formed on Feb. 2, 1986 to evaluate the performance of these agencies and to draw up a final framework for their structural organisation in order to avoid duplication of work.

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"Our Arab World is in need of stagnation.

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The inevitable link

THE Arab consensus reached on the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian question at the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman are inextricably linked and should be viewed within the context of the need to protect and defend Arab national security. In that context, resolutions on both issues complement one another, and only in their totality can they effectively contribute to strengthening the Arabs' regional and international standing, as well as foster the collective ability of the Arab World. For as the Arab leaders clearly realised and translated into constructive and firm resolutions, the urgent need to stop the war of attrition on the Arab World's eastern flank was essential not only to safeguard the security and the sovereignty of Iraq and the other Gulf states, but, also, to convert all Arab potentials to confront and tackle the major threat of the Israeli aggression and occupation.

In practical terms, the implementation of Arab resolutions on both issues should go hand in hand; for, as Arab and international efforts are expected to intensify and focus on achieving a prompt end to the Gulf crisis, there is an equally urgent need to continue effective support for the confrontation countries on the western front of Al Mashreq and, most significantly, of the steadfastness of our people in the Israeli-occupied territories. For and it will only be to the benefit of Israel and its supporters, if the Arab states failed to address the needs of the steadfastness of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation or to actively promote the idea of convening a United Nations-sponsored peace conference, in which all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), participate.

It has become clear to the Arab leaders that the Arab World can no longer afford to ignore any bleeding and sore spots on any of its flanks, since it contributes to the weakening of the Arab Order as a whole. This applies even more so when it comes to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which remains the heart of the Middle East crisis. But our hope and confidence is that the representatives of the Arab Nation, who rose to their historic responsibility in Amman, will pursue, in unison, their firm stands and translate these resolutions on both issues into solid action and constructive steps on the regional and international levels.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Summit outcome predicted

WE rightly predicted the outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit meeting before it was convened in Amman when we said that it will yield fruitful results. We were optimistic about the results in view of King Hussein's genuine and strenuous efforts for closing Arab ranks and his endeavours to rally the Arab countries and unify their ranks in the face of the common threats. The Arab leaders came to Amman with hope that this summit will achieve what it has been convened for, and certain that they will agree on a pan-Arab strategy that would end their differences and put them together in the same trench against enemy conspiracies. The summit achieved consensus and agreement among the Arab leaders because as the King said, the Arab leaders want to stop further deterioration in the Arab situation, and want to forge joint action, on the military, political and economic fronts. The post-summit era is therefore expected to witness a new stage in collective Arab work, and the coming stage is bound to see the Arabs working in favourable conditions to abort enemy plans directed against this nation. The Arab masses everywhere expressed deep satisfaction with the result of the Amman summit; and the friends of the Arabs were particularly relieved to see their friends once again mending fences and working together for the common good of the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Egypt welcomes restoration of ties

EGYPT has welcomed the Arab countries' decision to restore relations with Cairo after a break of eight years, and Egyptian leaders have made it clear that their country continues to be totally committed to the Arab cause. Needless to say that the restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt was one of the fruits of the Arab summit held in Amman in the past week, and which paid tribute to Egypt and its historic role in confronting the enemies of the Arabs and defending Arab soil. The restoration of relations with Egypt can by no means weaken the Arabs; on the contrary, it will have a beneficial effect on the Arab stand. The re-opening of embassies and the hoisting of flags have not changed any thing in inter-Arab relations and cooperation in economic, political and social fields which lasted throughout the past eight years. The return of full diplomatic relations does not only enhance each Arab country's feeling in its freedom to act on its own in matters serving the Arab Nation as a whole, but it also reaffirms the Arab countries' faith in the status and the role of Egypt and its people in matters of national destiny. We sincerely hope that the rest of the Arab countries will now declare their restoration of their full relations with Egypt which is hoped to resume its leading role to serve the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Press echoes summit success

THE Arab and foreign press have been echoing the success achieved by the Arab leaders at their Amman summit and paying tribute to the pan-Arab consensus which materialised. The success of the summit has no doubt restored the credibility in the Arab Order and Arab leaderships, something considered as a pre-requisite for inter-Arab cooperation on the military, economic and political levels. The Amman summit clearly diagnosed the ills of the Arab Nation and drew attention to the domestic and external challenges and threats and offered good indications that the leaders who arrived at a reconciliation will corroborate their close ties within a brotherly atmosphere. On the international level the Amman summit succeeded in winning more supporters for the Arabs and their just causes. Such consensus among Arab states will no doubt help nations of the world and world organisations to better understand the Arab issues and help in their solution.

Iran-contra report will criticise Reagan, revive controversy

By Sue Baker
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-controlled Congress, in its final report on the Iran arms scandal, will probably lay most of the blame for the fiasco on President Reagan but leave key questions unresolved.

Principally, doubt will linger for the foreseeable future on whether Reagan knew about the possibly illegal diversion of profits from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran to Nicaragua's contra rebels.

The president at first said the deals were an attempt to open relations with Iran, but later acknowledged that they were direct swaps for U.S. hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian forces.

The report, which is scheduled for release on Tuesday (Nov. 17), will be issued a year to the month after Reagan's worst foreign policy fiasco erupted. It will thrust the damaging affair back into the public spotlight at a time when the president has suffered a series of foreign and domestic setbacks.

The report will apportion blame for the scandal, determine which laws were broken or bent, and recommend legislative and other remedies in a bid to avoid a repetition.

But lawmakers predict the report's impact will be primarily political, fuelling a growing perception that Reagan has lost his grip on power and has little control of events.

"The most interesting part of the report for the American people will be our judgment of the responsibility of the president,"

said Lee Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat who chaired the special house committee created last January to probe what one legislator called "this sad and sordid tale."

The Senate set up a similar committee and together they interviewed some 500 people in private and reviewed more than 200,000 documents before calling 30 witnesses to testify during 11 weeks of televised hearings that stretched through Washington's hot, muggy summer.

The tale, like a good spy novel, was one of a tangled web of international intrigue, fanciful code words, secret Swiss bank accounts and clandestine meetings in European cities and in Tehran.

Republicans and Democrats alike were shocked by the disclosures in early November 1986 that Reagan had sold arms to Tehran at the same time he was urging other nations to isolate Iran as a "terrorist" nation.

But the affair became a full-blown scandal last November 25 when Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed the diversion of Iran.

Hatch, in a recent interview, said the report implicates the president by casting doubt on

the possibly illegal diversion of Iran arms sales profits to the Nicaraguan contra rebels — despite his denials.

"It's more than an interference, it's an implication," of Reagan's guilt, complained Orrin Hatch, a conservative Utah Republican who was one of Reagan's staunchest supporters on the Senate panel.

Poindexter, Reagan's national security adviser during most of the scandal, testified, "The buck stopped here with me."

But some Democrats said they doubted Poindexter — a man with a reputation for taking orders, not giving them — would have embarked on such a course without Reagan's approval.

They suggested he was protecting the president. They also said the admiral set a record for the most questions — 184 in five days of testimony — answered by: "I don't recall."

According to Hatch, the president is damned in the report

either way because it contains "language along the lines that if he didn't know, he should have known."

Also criticised in the report, according to aides, are North, a gung-ho marine whose passion, patriotism and boyish good looks briefly captured American hearts during his six-day testimony, former national security adviser Robert McFarlane, and Richard Secord, a retired air force officer who ran the contra supply network.

All six Republicans on the 15-member House committee, and two of the more conservative of the five Republicans on the 11-member Senate panel have added their minority views in a separate part of the massive report, whose 1,800 typed pages will be condensed to about 450 in its final printed form.

The report, some three months in the making, was completed and formally approved by the committees on November 3, several weeks behind schedule. Before being printed, it must undergo final declassification checks by the White House.

Reagan, who flatly denied initial news reports of the arms sales and withheld major details in subsequent statements, eventually accepted responsibility and said he allowed his concern for Americans held hostage by pro-Iranian forces in Lebanon to lead him astray and make mistakes.

The president at first said selling arms to Iran was part of an attempt to open strategic relations with Tehran. He later acknowledged it was a direct arms

swap.

Poindexter and North testified that they destroyed Iran-contra documents — in North's case, he shredded so many that a shredder jammed.

Sri Lanka delivers on autonomy but army still key to peace

By Jeremy Clift
Reuter

COLOMBO — President Junius Jayewardene has delivered his side of a bargain with India to end four years of ethnic bloodshed in Sri Lanka by pushing through laws to give the Tamil minority limited autonomy.

But it is still anyone's guess when elections can be held to implement the autonomy plan, both Indian and Sri Lankan officials say. Until then, Sri Lanka remains explosive.

India, with 20,000 troops on the island, is determined to underpin a political settlement by wiping out the Tamil guerrilla threat once and for all.

After crushing the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna in the north, Indian commanders have shifted their attention to eliminating pockets of heavily armed Tamil Tiger guerrillas along the eastern frontier.

This could take another month. Indian commanders say. But with the Tigers slipping into the dense jungle, the danger of Indian troops getting bogged down in a prolonged counter-insurgency operation remains strong, Western diplomats believe.

And with Jayewardene facing a backlash from hardline members of the Sinhalese majority in the south, the situation is still volatile.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who agreed on the autonomy plan with Jayewardene in July, says he was stabbed in the back by the most powerful and extreme of the Tamil rebel groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"They deliberately set out to wreck the agreement because they were unable or unwilling to make the transition from militancy to the democratic political process," Gandhi told parliament in New Delhi.

He said the Tigers had become beasts "coercing old men, women and children to act as shields, using innocent children as human bombs, murdering prisoners, and booby-trapping houses of the people of Jaffna on whose behalf they claim to be fighting."

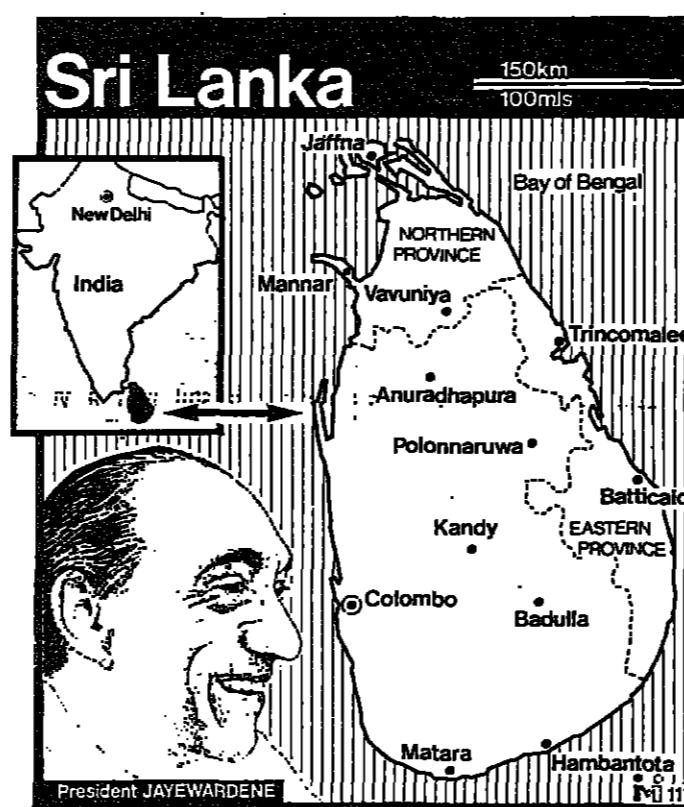
India, which has a large Tamil population of its own, had secured from Sri Lanka almost everything that the Tigers had demanded but they had rejected peace, Gandhi said.

Now Indian officials here feel there is no alternative but to carry the military offensive to its logical conclusion unless the Tigers yield to pressure for a ceasefire and join the political process.

The devolution package will set up a series of provincial councils across the country giving limited self-rule to Tamil-dominated areas of the north and east. The Sri Lankan government sees it as the last chance for peace.

Legislation clearing the way for the councils was approved by parliament by the required two-thirds majority on Thursday.

But Jayewardene faced a storm of violent protest from Sinhalese radicals and criticism from the main opposition Freedom Party.



It said the 81-year-old president had turned Sri Lanka into a pawn of India.

Freedom Party parliamentary leader Anura Bandaranaike said the autonomy deal would split the country. It would give the Tamils, who make up just 13 per cent of the population, 30 per cent of its coastline.

Police pinned responsibility for some of the bloodshed on an underground Sinhalese Marxist group opposed to the autonomy plan. Police said People's Liberation Front and monks staged demonstrations and hunger strikes, asserting that Buddhism, the country's

main religion, was under threat from the Hindu Tamils.

At least 150 people died across Sri Lanka this week as parliament debated the controversial autonomy legislation.

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main religion, was under threat from the Hindu Tamils.

Opposition candidates accuse government candidate Roh Tae-Woo, a former general, of seeking to continue military-backed rule. They stress Roh's key role in helping fellow ex-general President Chun Doo-Hwan seize power in 1980.

"We are standing at the crossroads of history where we either fall into the trap of prolonged military rule or we open a new age which will lead to peace and unification," said opposition

No front-runner in Korean presidential race

By Barry Renfrew
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A front-runner has yet to emerge in the presidential race that could be the most important election in South Korea's brief and turbulent history.

Many Koreans see the Dec. 16 election as a chance to establish full democracy in a country dominated by authoritarian governments since its creation in 1948. They also hope it will end the violence that has dominated Korean politics and clear the way for the nation's first peaceful transfer of power.

"The upcoming presidential election is a rare opportunity for the nation to be midwife at the birth of a new government whose legitimacy will not be challenged," the Korea Times said in a Nov. 10 editorial.

But the government is mounting a major campaign to retain power and the opposition's once seemingly assured hopes of victory have been overshadowed by internal divisions and rival candidates.

The campaign has centred on who can ensure democracy, and the government's authoritarian record.

Opposition candidates accuse government candidate Roh Tae-Woo, a former general, of seeking to continue military-backed rule. They stress Roh's key role in helping fellow ex-general President Chun Doo-Hwan seize power in 1980.

"We are standing at the crossroads of history where we either fall into the trap of prolonged military rule or we open a new age which will lead to peace and unification," said opposition

candidate Kim Dae-Jung. Roh, who was picked by Chun, has fought back hard, insisting he alone can ensure a peaceful transition to democracy and continued stability and economic prosperity.

The government campaign portrays Roh as a moderate who at the height of anti-government riots in June insisted that Chun give in to opposition demands for the first direct presidential elections in 16 years.

While a majority of people are thought to oppose the government, the opposition's election hopes have been hurt by the decision of top leaders Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung to both run for president even though they will split the opposition vote.

Many opposition supporters are dismayed or angry over the split. Some political observers say it could generate an electoral backlash.

"These Kims have betrayed the people and democracy. They think only of themselves," said one opposition supporter in a typical comment.

Little attention has been paid to other issues in the campaign and differences between the two groups that have dominated Korean politics in the past — radical students and the armed forces.

Radical students long have been a potent force in Korea and the demonstrations they spearheaded in June played a key role in forcing Chun to accept direct elections. The radicals rejected the elections as a compromise with the government, but so far have attracted little support for their call for new demonstrations.

Newspapers and political leaders have been critical of the government's handling of the crisis, with some calling for its immediate resignation. The opposition has been instrumental in pressuring the government to accept direct elections, and has been instrumental in organising mass protests against the government's policies.

Opposition leaders have called for a broad-based coalition government to include Roh, Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam.

Supporters of Roh and Kim Dae-Jung have responded by forming their own alliances, while Kim Young-Sam has remained relatively neutral.

The election is seen as a crucial test of South Korea's political system and its ability to move away from authoritarianism towards democracy.

With the election approaching, the political landscape in South Korea is likely to change significantly, with the outcome uncertain.

For the moment, however, the focus is on the campaign and the challenges ahead for the new president.

As the election date approaches, the political situation in South Korea remains fluid, with many factors influencing the outcome.

One key factor is the strength of the opposition, particularly the Kim Dae-Jung camp, which has been able to attract significant support from rural areas and smaller towns.

Another factor is the performance of the government, particularly the Roh Tae-Woo administration, which has faced criticism for its handling of the economy and its policies towards North Korea.

Finally, the international environment will play a role, with the outcome of the election likely to affect South Korea's relations with the United States and other countries in the region.

In conclusion, the 1987 presidential election in South Korea is likely to be a closely contested and significant event, with important implications for the future of the country.

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Finally, the international environment will play a

T.V. showman scandalises Italy

By Paul Holmes
Reuter

ROME — Midway through a variety show the presenter stops the music to denounce the company that sponsors the show, insult politicians and rally viewers' mass protest. It is a television producers' nightmare.

But the nightmare becomes reality every Saturday night in Italy on state television's controversial live variety show *Fantastico*. Now furious politicians are insisting it stop and the producers are keeping their fingers crossed it will.

At the centre of the storm is singer-actor Adriano Celentano, the country's highest-paid performer, whose unorthodox behaviour has fascinated Italians ever since he woke them up to rock and roll in the 1960's.

In the two months since he took charge of *Fantastico*, in between the song and dance Celentano has:

— Accused the commercial sponsors, a leading soap powder manufacturer, of "homicide by pollution."

— Branded the nation's political parties an elitist clique which treats the public as idiots;

— Campaigned against nuclear

power by declaring that *Fantastico* wouldn't be worth producing in 20 years time because "there will only be 28 of us around" after an atomic war.

In his most controversial outburst, accompanied by bloody film of baby seals being clubbed to death, Celentano told 11 million viewers on the eve of November 8 referendums on nuclear power and legal reform to write "hunting is against love" on their ballot slips.

Few followed the advice, not least because the show's producers made Celentano withdraw it. State television, RAI, also broadcast repeated warnings that voters would be invalidating their ballots if they did what the singer said.

The incident has opened Celentano, 49, to possible criminal charges for infringing a ban on campaigning on the eve of a vote and united most political parties against him.

Celentano has gone too far, he has got to be sacked," said Liberal Party parliamentarian Paolo Battistuzzi.

An editorial in the influential newspaper *Corriere Della Sera* suggested Celentano should stick to singing or be invited to take a rest. "He has lost touch with

reality," it said.

RAI, which is closely controlled by parliament, has also been accused of breaching its obligations as a public broadcasting service by allowing the entertainer a platform for his views in the three-hour show.

It now hopes to have put the furore behind it after fining Celentano 200 million lire (\$160,000) and threatening automatic dismissal if he steps out of line again.

Celentano, whose fee for the four-month series is reported to be eight billion lire (\$6.5 million), has promised to match the fine with a donation to the AIDS virus. He has also undertaken to submit his scripts to the producers in advance.

"Celentano's show is a novelty, for better or worse," RAI's Director-General Biagio Agnes said after the compromise was struck. "Relations with Celentano have turned out to be more difficult to manage than we imagined," he added.

RAI hired Celentano to host *Fantastico* after its last presenter, Pippo Baudo, left for a rival show, *Festival*, on the Canale 5 network of private broadcasting

Magnate Silvio Berlusconi. In the fierce ratings war between the two programmes, *Fantastico* has been streets ahead of *Festival*, which attracts about six million viewers on a Friday night. Celentano's regular weekly "Monologue" is part of the new unorthodox approach and is intended primarily to woo a younger audience.

While song, dance and comedy are still part of the routine, gone are the slick suits and smooth talk of Baudo and most of the big prize money games.

Viewers are instead asked by a sometimes unshaven Celentano to donate money to build a village in Africa and help other people's dreams come true rather than their own.

The show attracted more than 13 million viewers on its opening night and though ratings have slipped to about 11 million *Fantastico* still draws about half the Italian television audience.

Critics describe it as the sort of show you either love or hate. Some ordinary Italians are less subtle.

"Talk about changing channels," said one man from Milan. "It's enough to make you want to change nationalities."

Woody Allen discusses films, friends, and fatherhood

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

ONDÖN — Woody Allen, the American actor and director who is about to become a first-time father, discussed his films and opened for a baby girl in a TV interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. that appeared on Friday.

"I hope it's a she... that would be very important to me," Allen, 41, said of the child he and actress Mia Farrow, his longtime companion, are expecting. No due date has been announced.

The normally reclusive Allen, whose honours include a double in Academy awards in 1978 for writing and directing "Annie Hall," appeared on what the BBC called his first British television interview in seven years. The artwork is screening nine Allen films between now and Christmas.

The hourlong show, "Woody Allen: Love, Death, Sex, and Fathers Airing," was taped one afternoon in June at Allen's New York apartment.

Professor Christopher Frayling, the interviewer, is head of the department of cultural history at London's Royal College of Art.

"I don't feel I've made a great film yet in my life," Allen said, describing his standard as classics like Vittorio de Sica's "The Bicycle Thief" and Jean Renoir's "La Grande Illusion."

"I'd like to be remembered as someone who made at least one, not one or two, really great films," he said.

Throughout the interview, Allen was his own harshest critic, giving his sharpest swipes for his artless films.

He said the swinging 1965 sex comedy "What's New, Pussycat?" was an "undeserved" financial success.

His 1969 "Take the Money and Run," with Allen as the bumbling criminal Virgil Starkwell, suffered from "gags of any sort, of any kind."

His 1971 "Bananas," in which Allen played a hypochondriac en-

snares in a Latin American uprising, was marred by "an infantile type of funniness."

Even "Manhattan," his sophisticated 1979 film about a black-and-white city and the emotional colours of the people who inhabit it, got its knocks.

"What carries you through 'Manhattan' for me is more the style than anything else," he said. "I would do 'Manhattan' differently now. It's not a film I wouldn't do today, but I would do it differently."

Allen emphasised his love for weighty material and his desire to be taken seriously, despite his fans' insistence — satirised in his 1980 film "Standpoint Memories" — that he make funnier movies.

"I don't mean to downgrade comedy — I think it's a wonderful thing — but I put the other (drama) on a higher plane, myself. I think my films have been good to the degree that I could make them more serious," said Allen, adding that he was drawn to tragic playwrights like August Strindberg and Eugene O'Neill and preferred Shakespeare's drama to his comedies.

He said "Hannah and Her Sisters," his 1986 critical and financial success, was "more 'up' and optimistic than I had intended, and consequently was very popular."

But the optimism exacted a price: "It's only optimistic in the sections (where) I failed," he said.

He said his favourite film was "The Purple Rose of Cairo," in which Mia Farrow plays a woman seduced by a screen actor who steps out of a movie to woo her.

"The object of the movie was very simply to show that we all have to choose between reality and fantasy, and we're of course forced to choose reality; the other way lies madness," Allen said.

He praised both Diane Keaton and Mia Farrow, actresses with whom he has been romantically linked and whose careers he has enriched.

He called Ms. Keaton a "hilarious comedienne," and said he could not have written her title



Woody Allen



Wallace Shawn and Mia Farrow in Woody Allen's latest film Radio Days (File photo)

But despite their personal attachment, Allen said he and Farrow did have their differences.

"She is surrounded by kids and pets; I live by myself across the park (Central Park)," he said. "I don't have to be there when the diapers are changed or anything really awful happens."

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Lendl crushes Jarryd for 7th crown of year

The victory raised Czechoslovak's earnings for 1987 to \$1m

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Ivan Lendl has played tennis all over the world, on all different surfaces. But he likes nothing better than hitting the ball on his private hard court back home in Greenwich, Connecticut.

There, Lendl says, "I play my best, shots no-one ever sees."

The 27-year-old Czechoslovak, the world's top-ranked player since September, 1985, added \$75,000 to his fortune Sunday when he beat Sweden's Anders Jarryd 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 to capture the \$375,000 Benson and Hedges Championships.

It was Lendl's seventh Grand Prix title of the year, and it took his earnings for 1987 to just under \$1 million.

The money didn't seem to matter to Lendl, who quipped, "it'll probably mostly go the taxman."

But the work was good.

"I don't enjoy the travel," Lendl conceded. "The most fun I really have is playing on my own court in the back yard. That's where I play my best tennis. I

wish I could play some tournaments there."

"You would see some shots you never see, like passing shots from incredible positions. Sometimes, I even wonder how the ball drops in. You are more grooved on the court you know best."

He may have been several thousand miles from home, but the court at the Wembley arena also seemed tailor-made for Lendl as he crushed Jarryd in a one-sided exhibition of power and precision tennis.

He dropped only 17 points on serve against the Swede, the world's 16th-rated player, and gave up only two breakpoints, both of which he saved.

Surprisingly, Lendl said he did not like the court, despite winning

the title at Wembley three times in the past four years.

"It's hard to explain, but I don't really like this surface," he said. "It does not really suit my game."

As a result, Lendl will not be coming back next year, preferring to play in a new star-studded \$1.5 million exhibition event being staged simultaneously in Stuttgart, West Germany.

Sources said that tournament was also likely to be played on supreme, but Lendl said he was not sure of the surface.

From Wembley, Lendl will take a short rest before competing in an exhibition tournament.

Then he winds up his year by defending his masters title in New York.

Lendl said he has played too much tennis this year and that in 1988, he will play six fewer Grand Prix events, restricting himself to just 12.

"I've kept going for two reasons this year: To fulfill my commitments to the Grand Prix, and to make sure I don't slack off and start paying for it at the Australian Open in January."

"That, and Wimbledon, are two tournaments I would still very much like to win."

denning the title at Wembley three times in the past four years.

"We're still smoldering," quarterback Jim McMahon said. "We're 7-1. We just haven't been executing properly the last couple of weeks. This team still has a lot of pride, and we want to get back on top."

Despite their troubles, the Bears have come from behind to win their last three games, rallying from fourth-quarter deficits of 12, 14 and eight points.

Chicago's opponent Monday night is the Denver Broncos, a schizophrenic team that can't seem to find itself. The Broncos looked awesome in victories over Seattle and Detroit, but they looked awful in losses to Minnesota and Buffalo and in a tie

Chicago Bears still have pride — coach

DENVER (AP) — If the fire has gone out of the Chicago Bears, as coach Mike Ditka suggests, the embers at least are still hot.

"We're still smoldering," quarterback Jim McMahon said. "We're 7-1. We just haven't been executing properly the last couple of weeks. This team still has a lot of pride, and we want to get back on top."

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against Green Bay.

The only thing smoldering about the Broncos is the temper of coach Dan Reeves. A sluggish, mistake-filled 21-14 loss to Buffalo last Sunday caused Reeves to make some lineup changes for the Bears' game in Denver.

"It was a very poor performance in every phase," he said. "I don't think the effort was very good."

Ditka gives the offensive edge to Denver and the defensive edge to Chicago, with the special teams about even.

Denver, behind quarterback John Elway, ranks first in the AFC in offense, averaging 366 yards per game. Chicago is averaging 313 yards.

On defense, Chicago, a former super bowl champ, is second in the NFC, including a No. 1 ranking in the National Football League (NFL) in rushing defense.

Ditka insists Denver's record is deceiving.

"Being 4-3-1 is not totally realistic with the strike and all," he said. "They had some unfortunate games in Green Bay and

Rangers land Jets with 6-4 NHL win

Rangers land Jets with 6-4 NHL win

NEW YORK (AP) — The Rangers snapped an eight-game

National Hockey League (NHL) losing streak, their longest in 24 years, as Walt Poddubny scored two goals and assisted on another to help New York beat the Winnipeg Jets 6-4 Sunday night.

Also on Sunday Defenseman Phil Housley scored his 12th and 13th goals of the season to spark the Buffalo Sabres to a 5-4 NHL triumph over the Edmonton Oilers Sunday night.

Elsewhere Brent Hull scored three consecutive goals in the third period to lead the Calgary Flames over the Vancouver Canucks 8-4 Sunday night.

Lakers remain unbeaten

NEW YORK (AP) — After the Los Angeles Lakers scored more than 70 points in each half, coach Pat Riley had to admit that the team is on a roll.

"We're starting to break through offensively," Riley said said after the Lakers stayed unbeaten with a 147-130 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday night. "I'm pleased, but not satisfied. Work still has to be done on our defense."

The victory gave the Lakers a 6-0 record, the team's best start ever, spanning 12 years in Minnesota and 27 in southern California.

"It's a positive way to start the season," said Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who scored 19 points but was only the fifth-leading scorer for the Lakers. "It's still too early to claim that we're the best Laker team ever, but it's a good confidence builder."

In other NBA games Sunday, it was Boston 103, Indiana 98; Washington 113, New Jersey 109; Houston 108, Seattle 106; and Milwaukee 112, Atlanta 103.

Celtics 103, Pacers 98

Boston also stayed unbeaten after six games as Larry Bird scored 34 points and Danny Ainge 21 against Indiana. The Celtics led 61-53 at halftime after hitting 68 per cent of its shots in the first quarter and 65 per cent in the second period. But the Pacers



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in action

got as close as a point three times in the fourth quarter, the last time at 91-90 with 6:46 left. Boston then scored the next seven points to regain control.

Bullets 113, Nets 109

Washington kept New Jersey winless after four games as Moses Malone had 28 points and 17 rebounds and Jeff Malone 25 points.

Seoul to send 4 teams to scale Himalayan peaks

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — South Korea will send four teams to try to climb Himalayan peaks in the winter climbing season starting Dec. 1. Nepal's ministry of tourism said Sunday.

Announcing expeditions approved for the season, ending Feb. 15, the ministry said Japan will send three teams, Poland and Yugoslavia two each and the United States and Canada one each.

An eight-member Korean Alpine Club team led by Kunihiko Yagihara, 41, of Maebashi, will try the south face route and a four-member Kamoshika Alpine Club expedition led by Yoshitomi Okura, 36, up Tokyo, will try the north face route up the 8,091-metre mountain.

Two of the Japanese teams plan to tackle Armapurna 1.

A 14-member Gumi Alpine Club team led by Kunihiko Yagihara, 41, of Maebashi, will try the south face route and a four-member Kamoshika Alpine Club expedition led by Yoshitomi Okura, 36, up Tokyo, will try the north face route up the 8,091-metre mountain.

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Greece hands Olympic flame to Canadians

ANCIENT OLYMPIA, Greece (Agencies) — The Olympic torch, lighted by the Sun's rays at the sanctuary that staged the ancient Olympics, headed to Athens Monday on its way to the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary, Canada.

A Greek runner, Stelios Bisbas, 19, started what Canadian officials called "the longest torch run in history" Sunday by jogging one kilometre with the flame held aloft in one hand and olive branch symbolising peace in the other.

At the nearby village of Plataea officials transferred the flame to a special Canadian-miner's lamp for a 40-minute flight to Athens.

"This flame's magic will help us carry the spirit of the Olympic Games to millions of Canadians," said Bill Pratt, president of the Calgary Games organising committee, at a brief ceremony in the marble Panathenaic Stadium in Athens. The stadium hosted the first modern Olympics in 1896.

The flame will arrive in St. Johns, Newfoundland, on Tuesday to start an 18,000 kilometre relay to Calgary across mountains and wintry prairie lands.

Pratt said the torch will be carried by more than 7,000 runners by plane and on skis, by dog-sled and "skidoo" — a Canadian-made snowmobile.

Because of cloudy weather, Sunday's flame kindling cere-



Monday's match, played within the national Premier League Championships (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Navratilova downs Soviet teenager for 8th Slams title

CHICAGO (AP) — It was somewhat of a surprise to Martina Navratilova that she was facing 16-year-old from the Soviet Union in the championship of the \$150,000 Virginia Slims of Chicago tennis tournament. But it didn't shake her game.

The original Olympic Games were staged every four years from 776 B.C. to 261 A.D. without interruption. They were revived by a French aristocrat, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

The sanctuary at ancient Olympia in southwestern Greece is often confused with Mount Olympus, the country's highest peak and home of the ancient gods of Greek mythology. But Mount Olympus, in northern Greece, isn't linked with the Olympic Games.

In the doubles championship, Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany, and Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, the top seeds, downed the United States' Zina Garrison and Lori McNeil 6-4, 6-3.

The top-seeded Navratilova played a baseline game with long volleys. She was able to score several points on well-placed drop shots and passing shots while executing outstanding lobs

He is to be briefed on the Seoul Games and inspect Olympic facilities, including a swimming pool that is the only competition site not completed, SLOC officials said.

They said Samaranch will also attend a reception where the guests will sample food planned for athletes' menus during the Olympics.

Samaranch was met on arrival

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Iraq to export electricity to Turkey and Kuwait

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — Iraq is to export electric power to Turkey from next month, initially at a rate of 400 million kilowatt per hour (KWH), according to Iraqi Heavy Industries Minister Abdul Tawab Mulla Huwaish.

The minister said technical arrangements relating to the installation of power lines and transforming stations had been completed by the two countries in preparation for the commissioning of the first stage.

The project, he said, included two stages — 70 megawatt with a capacity of 400 million KWH and 500 megawatt with a capacity of three million KWH.

Technical studies were underway in the two countries for the implementation of the second stage, the minister added.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7405/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3155/65	Canadian dollar
	1.7158/65	West German marks
	1.9325/35	Dutch guilders
	1.4120/30	Swiss francs
	35.83/86	Belgian francs
	5.7935/60	French francs
	1257/1258	Italian lire
	137.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.1525/75	Swedish crowns
	6.4850/4950	Norwegian crowns
	6.6100/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	461.30/461.80	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Profit-taking took some prices off their highs in modest afternoon business, but most of the session's heavy gains on President Reagan's remarks about cutting the U.S. budget deficit remained intact, dealers said.

By 1500 GMT Monday the FTSE 100 index was up 49.9 points (2.9 per cent) from last Friday's closing to 1,728.2, after a high of 1,734.8 at 1319 GMT. A higher opening on Wall Street was anticipated and to some extent triggered the profit-taking, dealers said.

Prices have climbed steadily throughout the day after President Reagan at the weekend said a pact to cut the U.S. budget deficit by \$80 billion over the next two years could be tied up soon.

A fall in the Dow Jones industrial average after the first half-hour of trading on Wall Street accelerated the profit-taking here and by 1523 GMT the FTSE 100 index had fallen back again to stand at 1,719.9, still up 41.6 points on the day.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Fletcher Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It would be advisable to use more than common effort in reaching your ideas to a more practical level this morning. Be kind and thoughtful to your friends and family today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You must use more tact and wisdom when planning your day because you're worried about something. Be very thoughtful of your mate and gain much support.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Attempt to remove obstacles from your path rather than trying to hurdle them. Avoid a friend who is too noisy today; there may be ulterior motives at work.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Carefully consider your credit and current situation this morning. This is a good day to seek favors of friends or important people. You'll probably be turned down.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Consider the possibility of getting into a new and possibly quite lucrative business venture. Reassure a newcomer before accepting this person.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Relent your usual stubbornness and do what your mate wants today, even though you don't especially like the activity. Carefully review your financial situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A public master is not working out as you'd like, but take this situation

in stride and everything will work out. Don't let a grumpy associate distract you from your goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Set up a better budget to follow at home. Discuss how to make a product move faster with a clever business associate. Be very careful while driving tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Cut conversations down to a minimum with fellow workers. If your mate is upset this evening, be kind. This is not a good day to get into new arrangements.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure that your home is in good condition and then enjoy an inexpensive entertainment with friends. Be tactful with a family friend tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Postpone that trip you had planned, and work on necessary home repairs instead. Your communication skills are not up to par today, so don't argue.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Safeguard your property and possessions during the day, and do not visit a friend this evening. Set up a better budget. Use much care in motion today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may feel stifled and irritable because things are not working as rapidly as you'd like. Keep a measured pace and all will be fine. Be contemplative.

ACROSS
1 Horse
5 Moving
8 Easily
11 Bubble
14 Beverage
15 Chief
16 Tire filler
17 Nursery rhyme
20 Pub notation
21 So-so grade
22 Buenos —
23 Work the land
24 Cotton fabric
25 Arts
30 Wild ox
31 Panama is
one
32 Pinky or
Gypsy
33 Piano piece
34 Old fashioned
cottage
40 Comic
Amsterdam
41 Elysium
42 Steak
43 Satisfy
45 Lands
46 Tap
49 Macaw
50 Press
51 Bush
54 Team
55 Superactive
suffix
58 Stretch or May
61 — Platines
62 Count of
Monte Carlo
63 Gaze
DOWN
1 Kingless
2 Keffiyeh cord
3 Mechanical
course
4 Letter from
Athens
5 Polyester
6 OT Impres
7 Encouraging
sounds

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Attempt to remove obstacles from your path rather than trying to hurdle them. Avoid a friend who is too noisy today; there may be ulterior motives at work.

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Arabs urged to set up joint stock market

CAIRO (R) — The chairman of the Union of Arab Stock Exchanges (UASE) called on Monday for the removal of all restrictions to inter-Arab trade and urged the setting up of a joint Arab stock market.

Economy Minister Yousri Mustapha made the plea at the opening session of the UASE meeting.

Mr. Hisham Al Oteibi, who is also director of Kuwait's stock market, was also quoted by the Middle East News Agency as saying Arab investors should have learned a lesson from the fall in prices on world stock markets.

"What happened in world stock markets was not a crash ... it corrected wrong positions as the former rise in prices was not normal," the agency quoted him as saying.

Mr. Oteibi called on Arab countries with large portions of their reserves invested abroad to cover this deficit," he said.

He suggested that central banks in Arab countries should contribute towards setting up such a market.

Mr. Oteibi is chairing a three-day symposium in Cairo on the importance of information about Arab stock markets. It is being attended by the seven UASE members — Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia.

On Sunday, Egypt urged Arab countries to increase inter-Arab investment as a way to avoid

repercussions from the recent world stock market "crash" and to help economic development in the region.

Mr. Mustapha made the plea at the opening session of the UASE meeting.

He said Egypt was ready to provide technical and material assistance to make this possible. Mr. Al Oteibi said Arab stock markets should be developed to attract funds now invested outside the area and boost economic development.

Mr. Oteibi said the drop in oil prices and the fall in the value of the dollar were behind trade deficits from which most Arab countries suffered.

Some of these countries with large portions of their reserves invested abroad to cover this deficit," he said.

He suggested that central banks in Arab countries should contribute towards setting up such a market.

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26 die in Denver plane crash

DENVER (AP) — Investigators were studying the wreckage Monday of a Continental Airlines jet that passengers say veered sharply during takeoff in a snowstorm before crashing, killing 26 and injuring 56.

The twin-engine DC-9, taking off with 82 people aboard, flipped over and broke into three pieces Sunday in the deadliest crash of Stapleton International Airport's 58-year history.

Bob Johnson, chief of the Denver office of the National Transportation Safety Board, said up to 50 investigators will study the wreckage and other evidence for the next seven to 10 days.

A report of probable cause may not be available for months, depending on when hearings are scheduled, he said.

Continental and airport officials refused to speculate on the cause, but witnesses said the DC-9 was barely off the ground when it hit the slushy runway.

"The right wing dropped, and we veered to the right," said passenger Fred H. Helpenstell, a 56-year-old physician. "Then the left wing dropped and we veered to the left and crashed."

U.S. team may have role in Nicaraguan talks

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (Agencies) — Nicaragua's senior Roman Catholic clergyman says a team of experienced U.S. negotiators could help mediate ceasefire talks between the Sandinista government and the contra rebels.

But the clergyman, Archbishop Miguel Obando Y Bravo, made clear Sunday he had not yet accepted the government's proposal that he serve as chief mediator in the ceasefire talks.

Cardinal Obando Y Bravo said he was awaiting for authorisation by the nine-member Conference of Nicaraguan Bishops, of which he is president, to assume the leadership of the mediation effort.

He said he also wants assurances that both sides would consider him "not a simple messenger, but an intermediary who could make suggestions both to the government of Nicaragua as well as to the resistance."

The suggestion that American negotiators join the ceasefire talks came from U.S. House Speaker Jim Wright, who received visits last week from Cardinal Obando Y Bravo and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. The cardinal at the time said that if he agreed to mediate, he would like help from experienced advisers.

A church spokesman, Monsignor Bismarck Carballo, said Sunday in Managua that the Sandinistas have endorsed the participation of the four.

Carballo identified them as Paul C. Warnke, head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under former President Jimmy Carter; Ed King, a retired colonel who has studied Central American armies; Wilson Morris, an aide to Mr. Wright and Richard Pena, who has worked with Mr. Wright on Central American issues.

Whether the four join the process depends on the contras' response, Cardinal Obando Y Bravo said Sunday.

He said he would not comment on Mr. Wright's proposal or any other aspect of the possible negotiations until he formally accepted the mediation post.

Cardinal Obando Y Bravo tentatively accepted the position during a two-hour meeting with Mr. Ortega at the Vatican embassy in Washington on Friday.

He also agreed to convey to the rebels an 11-point cease-fire plan that Mr. Ortega proposed.

Mr. Ortega's plan calls for a ceasefire to begin on Dec. 5 and for contras inside Nicaragua to move to one of three ceasefire zones. The rebels would lay down their arms on Jan. 5, before independent observers, and then be granted amnesty.

Leaders of the contras' Nicaraguan Resistance umbrella group have not yet formally received

Minister says Ganilau accepted Fijian presidency

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Fiji's former governor-general, Ratu Sir Penia Ganilau, is to become the republic's first president, Fijian Information Minister Ratu Inoke Kubuabola said Monday.

In an interview with Radio New Zealand, Inoke said Ganilau had accepted the post following repeated offers from Brig. Sitiveni Rabuka, who staged a military coup on Sept. 25 and removed Ganilau as governor-general.

But Inoke was unable to say if former Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara had accepted Brig. Rabuka's offer to become prime minister.

Ganilau is high chief and wields widespread influence in Fiji, a nation of some 300 islands about 3,200 kilometres north east of Sydney, Australia.

He served as Queen Elizabeth II's executive representative in the former British colony until

hypothermia, as were several who spent hours inside the crushed wreckage before being freed.

"I remember thinking, 'I'm about to die is it?' and then I wondered what's it going to feel like," Helpenstell said.

Libby Smoot, who escaped virtually unharmed, said she and other passengers "were petrified."

"We were skidding on our side and eating dirt," she said. "A lot of people were screaming. A ball of flame passed by us as we were skidding along."

The 56 injured were transported to hospitals. Most were taken to Denver General Hospital. Those not seriously injured were released within hours.

Three crewmembers, including the pilot and first officer, were among those killed.

Flight 1713 originated in Oklahoma City and was en route to Boise, Idaho.

Show had been falling most of the day in Denver and airport officials said visibility was low and flights were hampered by strong crosswinds. At least 6 in-

ches (15 centimetres) of new, wet snow had fallen by midday.

Officials in the control tower saw a fireball on the north-south runway and later speculated that the fire came from wing tanks that exploded when the left wing separated from the plane's body.

The deaths and injuries were not caused by fire, officials said.

The fuselage broke into three main pieces and many of the passengers were trapped inside, some up to six hours.

The plane came to rest about 2,500 feet (760 metres) from the end of the 10,000-foot-long (3,050-metre-long) runway with bodies, injured passengers and wreckage strewn along the ground.

Airport spokesman Richard Boulware described the scene as a "jungle gym of mangled metal."

As crews worked to remove victims, one man emerged almost unscathed five hours later, said police detective John Wyckoff. The man, who was not identified, walked to an ambulance and was driven away sitting up. Wyckoff said.

"We are very happy that his

Chun formally announces election date

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Chun Doo-Hwan announced Monday that the first direct presidential elections in 16 years will be held Dec. 16, and police went on nationwide alert after a weekend of campaign violence.

Mr. Chun, formally announcing the date that was decided on last week, warned against allowing provincialism and violence to disrupt the election.

"They would be willing through a mutual agreement to establish a line of security along the border between Honduras and Nicaragua, with representatives of other countries outside the region," Mr. Ortega said.

"In exchange, Nicaragua would not mine the border zones with Honduras, nor allow Nicaraguan troops to make incursions to the contras' bases in Honduras, withdraw our heavy artillery a certain distance from the border... and also establish regulations on armament levels," Mr. Ortega added.

He also told the magazine that Honduras has offered itself as the site of meetings between the United States and Nicaragua if they are agreed upon.

Malaysia arrests more opposition leaders

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian police have detained six more people, five of them Muslim opposition leaders, bringing the total arrested to 103 in the country's biggest political and security crackdown in a decade.

Deputy Inspector of Police Tan Sri Jaffar Abdul released the figure to reporters on Monday but declined to give details.

He said there was no immediate plan to free the 103 detainees, who include politicians, social reformers, environmentalists, academics and trade unionists.

Malaysia has made the arrests, banned political rallies, and closed three newspapers in a campaign which officials say aims to reduce tension between Malays and Chinese.

Police declined to name the latest detainees.

Japanese volcano erupts again

TOKYO (AP) — A volcano that forced the evacuation of an island south of Tokyo a year ago erupted Monday, spewing a column of white smoke and triggering hundreds of small earthquakes, but causing no immediate damage, officials said.

"There was a sudden bang from above, not from the ground, and the roof of our building shook sharply," said a government official on Oshima Island 110 kilometres south of Tokyo.

A television reporter flying over the island in a helicopter reported seeing a column of white smoke as high as 2,000 metres above the crater of Mount Mihara.

What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AQ ♦K963 ♦Q83 ♦AK52

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AKJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦AQ6 ♦Q45 ♦Q372 ♦AQ5

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦AQ73 ♦Q45 ♦QK762 ♦103

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AKJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.9—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.10—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.11—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.12—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.13—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.14—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.15—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.16—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.17—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.18—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.19—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.20—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.21—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦QJ93 ♦Q1093 ♦K102 ♦Q

Your right-hand opponent holds the bidding with one diamond.

What action do you take?

Q.22—As